
NEWS RELEASE

Judd Gregg

United States Senator for New Hampshire
393 Russell Building, Washington, D.C. 202-224-3324 www.senate.gov/~gregg/



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

October 10, 2003

Contact: Erin Rath/Jeff Turcotte

SENATOR GREGG ATTENDS CEREMONY MARKING THE FINAL PROTECTION OF CONNECTICUT LAKES HEADWATERS LAND

PITTSBURG, N.H. -- U.S. Senator Judd Gregg (R-NH), co-chair of the Connecticut Lakes Headwaters Partnership Task Force, today helped celebrate the permanent protection of the former International Paper land at the official signing ceremony marking the State of New Hampshire's purchase of a conservation easement on the land. Through his position on the Senate Appropriations Committee, Senator Gregg secured \$11.6 million in federal funding which comprised the federal share of the cost of the project. On behalf of the entire Task Force, Senator Gregg accepted the Wildlife Management Institute's 2003 "Touchstone Award," which was awarded to recognize the diligence and creativity the Task Force used in designing a science-based protection strategy for the future of the land.

U.S. Senator Judd Gregg (R-NH) stated, "Together, we have seized a once-in-a-generation opportunity to preserve the multi-use tradition of the North Country. Accounting for over 3% of New Hampshire, the Connecticut headwaters property is a strategic economic, recreational, and natural asset for the entire state. As co-chair of the Connecticut Lakes Headwaters Partnership Task Force, I am extremely pleased to see the Task Force's vision for the permanent conservation of this unique forest resource come to fruition.

"Every single person involved in the protection of this magnificent land can feel proud in that we have accomplished what I believe is the most significant conservation achievement in New Hampshire's history since Congress passed the Weeks Act in 1911 creating the White Mountain National Forest. The Connecticut Lakes project highlights New Hampshire's strong tradition of collaboration, informed dialogue and consensus building in addressing key environmental challenges and I commend all of the Task Force members and public and private organizations who contributed to the success of the project. Thanks to the dogged determination and the hard work of all of the people here today we have ensured the conservation of 171,000 acres of working forest and wildlife habitat and have guaranteed the land's central role in the culture and economy of the region. I am proud to accept this year's Touchstone Award on behalf of the Task Force and thank all of the federal, state and local officials, and environmental organizations for all they have done to make this historical undertaking a reality."

- more -

Following the announcement by the International Paper Company to sell the 171,000 acres of forest in July 2001, Senator Gregg worked with former Governor Shaheen, House Speaker Gene

Chandler and then Senate President Arthur Klemm to assemble the Task Force, a team of local, state and federal officials and private conservation organizations charged with developing a consensus approach, vision and funding mechanisms for protection of the IP lands. The Task Force issued a final report and recommendation in December 2001 for the protection of the IP lands to guarantee recreational public access for NH residents and visitors, the continuation of sustainable forestry, and the protection of ecologically sensitive resources. New Hampshire HB 1000, which was signed into law in May 2002, authorized \$10 million in state bonding for the project and directed the State of New Hampshire to acquire fee ownership and conservation easement interests on the land.

#